

UNTO THE Youth of our Friends (called Quakers) IN THE City of Bristol, and elsewhere,



And others who may be concerned herein.

To be Read and Practised in the Fear of God, in which it was given forth.

IN a tender care and desire of the welfare of you, the Youth of Friends of this City (and others concerned) of what Capacity soever, whether Children or Servants; in an earnest Travel that the Work of God, which he hath begun, might go forward in you, with full Power and Victory over all your Enemies, and that as living Plants of Righteousness, you may be preserved, and grow together with his people, in a pure and spotless Testimony for the Truth, as it hath been received, and preached from the beginning; for the gathering a lout of the Pollutions, vain Customs and Traditions of the World, unto the pure Spirit and Life of Christ Jesus, which hath been the Guide of the Righteous through all Ages.

These Lines are to you, in the pure fear of God, from us whose Hearts have been long saddened with the Observations, and feeling of the prevalency of the Enemy's Snares and Temptations of divers sorts, over Youth; And that notwithstanding the frequent Warnings, and Counsels, which have been given in your ears, which have not had that through effect, upon some, your Souls have desired; And to the grieving of our Spirits, we have observed that the Enemy hath taken great advantage over Youth, in their disorderly proceeding towards Marriage, wherein many have gone from the pure leadings of the Truth, by unequally yoking themselves, and going to Priests to be married; and other miscarriages, which have been to the dishonour of the Truth, the opening the mouths of the Enemies thereof, grieving the hearts of Friends, and wounding their Souls.

And farther, We being (in our waiting upon the Lord) made sensible, that a great Cause from whence the evils, hurts, and offences of this kind have come; hath been through youth, in their unbridled nature, Engaging and Intangling one another in affections before they have acquainted their Parents or Gardians therewith, which if they had so done, they might have received right and true Counsel how they might have acted, to the honour of Truth in that Affair.

And we being made sensible how unrighteous and uncomely a thing it is, and how far remote from that duty and respect which is due to Parents, and Gardians, who are rightly concerned in their dispose, for any thus to act; we cannot but, for the warning of our selves, and for the preventing of future Miscarriages of this kind, on Gods behalf, warn and caution all Friends who are (or may be) concerned herein, to be tender, and careful in this matter, of so weighty concernment; and that such, who have any intentions towards Marriage, do in the fear of the Lord, seriously weigh and consider what they are going about to do, and mind his leadings and guidings therein, and not to be too forward, but wait in singleness of heart for Counsel from the Lord, and not to eye any outward thing more then the Lord; and when they shall come to see their way clear, in the Fear of the Lord, in the first place, in plainness to offer such their intentions unto their Parents or Gardians, and to the Parents or Gardians of the party that is in their eye; and so to act in the Light, as Children thereof, as may answer the Witness of Truth within them all, and not otherwise; And in this they may expect the blessing of the Lord to be with them in their so proceeding.

And we do believe, that this our Serious, and tender Advice and Counsel will have an answer in the hearts of all such as love the Truth and the prosperity of it, and that such will readily follow our advice and Council herein which is for their good, and preservation, and for the preventing those miscarriages, which many (not minding the true guide) have unadvisedly run upon, to their great hurt, which may be warning to them that come after.

And whoever they are, that shall slight this our love, and tender regard to their good, and preservation, and shall willfully act in a way contrary thereunto, we shall be thus far clear of them, and of all hurts and evils that may ensue; and the Truth of God will be clear. And his righteous Judgments such (who have, or shall act contrary to the Truth in this kind) must feel, before they can recover their place again, which we wait for, and should be glad of the Restoration of any that have fallen. And this our Tender Counsel and Warnings for preventing the Enemies Snares in this kind, for which this Paper was particularly drawn up, and sent to you; And that it may have the more sure effect, we make it our Request, That all Parents, Masters, and Gardians would carefully propagate the same, and that any who do, or may know of any ones acting contrary to the advice given in this Paper, that in Love to the Truth, and the Souls of such Persons, they do give timely notice to such Friends as may be concerned therein, to advise them; That all evil Consequences may be prevented and stopped, and the care and trouble of Friends may be lessened in this matter.

Given forth at our Mens-Meeting,
in the City of Bristol, the sixth
day of the third Moneth, 1678.
As their appointment signed

By { Laurence Steel, Charles Jones, Charles Harford,
Thomas Callowhill, Thomas Gouldney, William Forde.